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Aglands Foundation announces results of Public Round 12

On May 24, 2007, the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation met to finalize the selections for Round 12 of the farmland preservation program. Twenty-six out of one hundred and seven farms that applied were selected. This round will permanently preserve 2,815 acres of farmland at a cost of \$14.7 million. Once the selections go to settlement, this round will bring Delaware's total number of acres permanently preserved by Delaware's agricultural lands preservation program to 84,990 acres

The nationally acclaimed Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program was formed with the adoption of House Bill 200 in July, 1991. Thanks to Governor Minner and the Delaware General Assembly the Program received a real boost in 2005 when they established a permanent funding source for Farmland Preservation - \$10 million per year. The program also receives matching funds from the federal government and the Counties along with funds from the Sussex County Land Trust, a private entity.

Delaware is first in the nation in the percentage of our land that is permanently preserved for agriculture with 6.8 percent of our land area.

Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, "I want to thank the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation trustees, Delaware's three county governments, and the Sussex County Land Trust for their continued commitment to preserving our irreplaceable farmland. Agriculture is Delaware's number one industry, more than a billion dollar industry annually. Protecting this industry by preserving farmland sustains Delaware's economy. Preserving this land also protects our citizens' quality of life and critical wildlife habitat for future generations."

Itemized list of selections is available upon request.

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